

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 630

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to recognize George H. Bass on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, George H. Bass is one such estimable person who, though educated as a civil engineer, has excelled in a number of professional endeavors in the field of human resources development and executive training and has recently taken a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, raised in Nashville, Mr. Bass attended West High School, graduating in 1954, and was an active member of the Boy Scouts of America, earning his Eagle Scout Badge in 1952 and gaining induction into the Order of the Arrow in 1953; and

WHEREAS, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Tennessee Technological University in 1958, George Bass was quickly hired by the Department of Highways of the State of Tennessee, for which he served as a Senior Roadway Design Engineer until 1966, leading the design team for sections of Interstate Highways 24, 40, and 81; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, Mr. Bass was named the Director of Recruiting and Training for the Department of Highways, recruiting civil engineers and other professionals throughout the Southeast. His exemplary efforts would lead to his naming as the Assistant Director of Training for the Department of Personnel in 1969; and

WHEREAS, from 1972 until 1986, George Bass served as the Director of State Employee Training and Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources Development for the Department of Personnel, overseeing the establishment of such innovative new programs as

the implementation of job-skill training for employees statewide and the initiation of a Co-op Education Program; and

WHEREAS, his visionary and innovative leadership was demonstrated by the development and implementation of the flagship program, the Tennessee Government Executive Institute, in 1983. Developed in cooperation with the University of Tennessee School of Political Science, the Institute is an invitation-only opportunity for state executives and still flourishes today with over 600 graduates and an active alumni association; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, George H. Bass completed thirty years of employment with the State of Tennessee and took a much deserved retirement from state service; he spent his final year as the Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, in which position he was responsible for training all family assistance and food stamp case workers on a new desktop system in an effort to coordinate services in every county of the state; and

WHEREAS, highly respected and admired for his experience and practical knowledge, Mr. Bass served as a Senior Training and Development Consultant for Learning International of Greenwich, Connecticut, from 1987-1992, before accepting his current position as Senior Designer for Workshop Content and Process for Thompson-Mitchell and Associates, of Atlanta Georgia, in 1993; and

WHEREAS, he has been an active and important part of his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations over the years, including the American Society of Training Development, earning its Torch Award in 1977 and being featured as an Outstanding Trainer in *Training: The Magazine of Manpower and Management Development* in 1974; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime, Mr. Bass has also been deeply committed to working with youth, having worked as a volunteer youth director at Waverly Place Methodist Church after graduation from college. His continuing youth ministry led to the establishment of Mount T.O.P. (Tennessee Outreach Project) with the youth of Blakemore United Methodist Church (UMC); and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as the Executive Director of Mountain T.O.P., more than 6,000 youth and adults from 120 local churches, representing ten denominations from twenty-eight states, participated in meeting the spiritual, emotional, social and physical needs of the

families in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee and more than 1,050 young adults were hired and trained to serve as summer staff at the Mountain T.O.P. camps in the Cumberland Mountains; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his hard work and years of dedication, the Mountain T.O.P. Board of Directors established the George H. Bass Brick and Mortar Fund to support camp development and maintenance in 2007 in honor of his thirty years of service and commitment to the ministry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bass also contributes his time and numerous talents to the Boy Scouts of America, serving as BSA Troop 17 Committee Chair and Charter Organization Representative for Blakemore UMC; and

WHEREAS, actively involved with the YMCA, George H. Bass served on the Southwest YMCA Board of Directors and chaired the fundraising committee for the building of the first Southwest YMCA in Green Hills; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of the Methodist Church, George Bass has been a longtime member of Blakemore UMC, where he serves on the Parish Council and serves as President of the Blakemore United Methodist Men's Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bass exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, George Bass enjoys the loving companionship of his wife of fifty years, Lorena J. Bass, and together they are the proud parents of two devoted daughters, Trish Bass Pulley and Janet Gail Bass Drake, and the doting grandparents of treasured grandsons George Russell, and Garland; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, George H. Bass has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to honor the inspirational leadership and commitment to duty of such an exceptional public servant and proud Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor and commend George H. Bass for his impeccable character and stalwart commitment to his beloved state of Tennessee and his fellow man as we extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.